

Customer No.: 7055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Reimund REINECKER et al. Confirmation No.: 8415
Appln. No : 10/615,867 Group Art Unit: 3653
Filed : July 10, 2003 Examiner: Unknown
For : PRESSURIZED SCREEN FOR SCREENING A FIBROUS
SUSPENSION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration;

(1) European Application No. EP 0 726 981 B1, issued April 7, 1999 (published August 21, 1996), which is discussed in the present application beginning in paragraph [0005].

(2) European Application No. EP 1 124 003 A2, published August 16, 2001, which is discussed in the present application beginning in paragraph [0006].

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated April 9, 2003, conducted in German Patent Application No. RS 108724 DE, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited:

- (3) European Patent Application No. EP 0 955 406 A2, published November 11, 1999, as an “X” category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 - 3, 9, 12, and 13 of the European application. Further, for the Examiner’s convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,575,395 issued to ALAJÄÄSKI et al. November 19, 1996, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European document;
- (4) European Patent Application No. 0 473 354 published March 4, 1992 as an “X” category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 11 - 13, and 15 of the European application. This document was also cited as an “A” category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention) with regard to claims 1, 3, and 9 of the European application. Moreover, Applicant notes that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0007]. Further, for the Examiner’s convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,096,127 issued to YOUNG March 17, 1992, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European document;
- (5) European Patent Application No. 1 124 002 published August 16, 2001 as an “A” category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire

document as relevant to claims 1 - 3, 8, 9, 12, and 13 of the European application. Further, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/019025 published September 6, 2001 to GABL et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European document;

(6) European Patent Application No. 1 215 335 published June 19, 2002 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, and 13 of the European application. Further, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0069985 published June 13, 2002 to RIENECKER et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited European document; and

(7) German Patent No. 197 02 044 issued April 16, 1998 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 3, 9, and 11 - 13 of the European application.

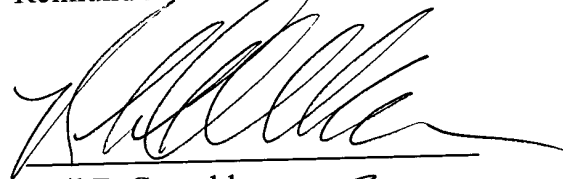
Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent

documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Reimund REINECKER et al.



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RF 35,043

October 14, 2003
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